



## Word Wall Guide

### Using Word Walls

#### What is a word wall and why should I use one?

A word wall is a purposefully selected group of words displayed on a wall or other prominent surface in the classroom. The selected words are those that are referred to throughout a lesson or unit of study. The words are often paired with a visual representation to help ELLs.

A word wall is a well-researched approach to teaching vocabulary that supports ELL instruction. Using a word wall to build vocabulary can improve students' reading comprehension and writing style. It also reinforces students' understanding of ELAR-specific terms and key concepts.

#### How do I set up a word wall?

After compiling a list of words and appropriate visuals, print them and consider laminating them for increased durability. Then decide how you want to organize your word wall. The most common options are alphabetical or by category. Attach the words to a wall with a temporary adhesion method like painter's tape or velcro, as it is important that the words be easy to move so that students can use the word wall to their best advantage.

#### Student Activity Ideas

- Spotlight Game
  - Start by turning off the lights. Use a small flashlight to point at different words on the word wall. Have students call out an example, the meaning, a synonym, or an antonym. You can also have students take turns being in charge of the flashlight.
- Word Ad
  - Put students in small groups. Have each group pick a word from the word wall and brainstorm the different ways someone could use the word. Then have them create an advertisement to sell one of the words from the word wall. This can be presented to the class.
- Word Origins and Root Words
  - Put students in small groups or pairs. Have each group/pair find the word origin and root words of 2 or 3 word wall words and present their findings to the class in a creative way. As an optional variation, give groups a word origin and have them make a list of words from the word wall that share that origin.
- Word Interview
  - Have students take turns pretending to "be" one of the words. A student picks a word to "be" from the word wall. The class then asks questions about the meaning, origin, etc in order to guess the word. Whoever correctly guesses the word goes next.

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### Suggested Word Wall Words

#### General Academic

compare  
apply  
define  
contrast  
conclude  
infer  
build  
recognize  
restate  
represent  
prioritize  
paraphrase  
interpret  
illustrate  
clarify  
classify  
represent  
summarize  
symbolize  
analyze  
evaluate  
outline  
argue  
generate  
breakdown  
assess  
convince  
design  
synthesize  
diagram  
debate  
develop  
justify  
verify

#### Research

expository  
plagiarism  
source  
footnote  
citation

#### Word Analysis/Grammar

affix  
appositive  
parallel structure  
predicate  
subject  
adjective  
simple sentence  
compound sentence

#### Argumentative Texts

argument  
bias  
counter argument  
debate  
persuasive  
propaganda  
viewpoint  
opinion

#### General Comprehension

1st person point of view  
2nd person point of view  
3rd person limited point of view  
3rd person objective point of view  
3rd person omniscient point of view  
prose  
sensory detail  
poetry  
fiction  
nonfiction  
drama  
coherence  
dialect  
fluency  
literal  
mythology  
inference

#### Literary Devices/ Figurative Language

analogy  
allusion  
metaphor  
simile  
personification  
dramatic irony  
verbal irony  
situational irony  
alliteration  
symbolism  
repetition  
flashback  
foreshadowing  
imagery

#### Text Structures/Writing

description  
elaboration  
narrative  
persuasive  
informative  
active voice  
passive voice  
thesis statement

#### Plot Elements

characterization  
exposition  
rising action  
climax  
falling action  
resolution  
denouement  
theme  
conflict